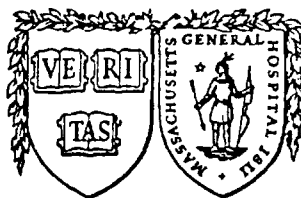


JUL 2 1969

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL      MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

HENRY K. BEECHER, M.D.  
*Dorr Professor of Research in Anaesthesia*



Please reply to  
DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

July 1, 1969

Professor J. Lederberg  
Genetics Department  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dear Professor Lederberg:

I am enclosing herewith the reprints you asked for. I have read with great interest your editorial on "Informed Guinea Pigs" (I had not seen it before), and I can say the same thing about the extracts you sent me from the "Annals of Internal Medicine."

I suppose you saw my recent article in "Science," where I expressed ideas so similar to your own. I am sure I should have been aware of what you had to say, but the fact is I did not. In any case, I am glad to see that we agree on the necessity for protecting the investigators and their human subjects.

I know that you are quite familiar with this hospital and its Committee on Research. What you don't know is the trouble I have had trying to get the ideas expressed in the "Science" article accepted in this institution. This is not in terms of active rejection but, worse, in terms of acute boredom when I have brought up the subject repeatedly. I do not think for one minute that the actuarial side of this problem is overwhelming. It is not more overwhelming than certain labor legislation already on the books, and successful.

I hope you will be interested in looking over my book, RESEARCH AND THE INDIVIDUAL. This is in press at Little, Brown, and I am now waiting for the page proof so that the time of its emergence should not be too far away.

I have no sense of infallibility and I would be very glad if you would take the trouble to let me know when you disagree with the things I have said in the enclosed reprints.

Very sincerely,

Henry K. Beecher, M.D.

see also 11/17